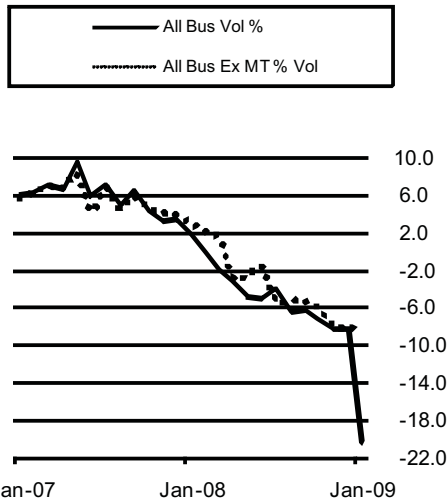




**Retail Sales Index -
Volume
Annual % Change**

Retail Sales Index
January 2009 (First Estimates)
December 2008 (Final Figures)



Seasonally Adjusted Retail Sales Index – All Businesses

(Base year 2000 = 100)

	Volume Index	Value Index
January 2008	126.8	146.0
January 2009	101.0	116.9
% change	-20.4%	-19.9%

Retail Sales volume decreases by 20.4%

The volume of retail sales (i.e. excluding price effects) decreased by 20.4% in January 2009 compared to January 2008. There was a monthly decrease of 9.4%. The large year on year retail sales decrease in January 2009 is primarily due to the large decrease in the motor trades sector. In January 2009 motor trades decreased 42.2% on the same period last year. Usually in January Motor Trades account for over one third of retail sales.

If Motor Trades are excluded the volume of retail sales decreased by 8.1% in January 2009 compared to January 2008 and the monthly change was -0.1%.

The value of retail sales decreased by 19.9% in January 2009 compared to January 2008 and decreased by 10.0% in the month. However, if Motor Trades are excluded, the annual decrease was 6.3% and there was no monthly change.

The year on year decreases in both the value and volume of retail sales for January 2009 are the largest annual decreases on record. The volume records began in 1974. The value records began in 1962.

A new retail series classified in accordance with the statistical classification of economic activities in European Communities i.e. NACE Rev. 2 and with updated baseweights will be published next month. An introductory note on the new series is available on our website at:
www.cso.ie/surveysandmethodologies/surveys/services/retail_sales_index.htm

All figures in this release are trading day and seasonally adjusted. The seasonal factors are based on unadjusted indices up to January 2009.

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Table 1 Seasonally Adjusted Indices of Total Retail Sales¹**Base Year: 2000 = 100**

Total Retail Sales for all Businesses Combined						
Period	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change
2004 Year	114.1	4.4	4.4	103.7	3.2	3.2
2005 Year	121.2	6.2	6.2	109.2	5.3	5.3
2006 Year	130.7	7.8	7.8	116.0	6.2	6.2
2007 Year	140.6	7.6	7.6	122.8	5.9	5.9
2008 Year	137.8	-2.0	-2.0	117.2	-4.6	-4.6
2007 1st quarter	138.3	3.8	8.0	122.4	3.7	6.8
2nd quarter	140.7	1.7	8.7	123.2	0.7	7.4
3rd quarter	140.4	-0.2	7.5	122.2	-0.8	5.9
4th quarter	141.3	0.6	6.0	122.0	-0.2	3.4
2008 1st quarter	142.8	1.1	3.3	122.3	0.2	-0.1
2nd quarter	139.3	-2.5	-1.0	117.9	-3.6	-4.3
3rd quarter	136.1	-2.3	-3.1	115.4	-2.1	-5.6
4th quarter	131.4	-3.5	-7.0	111.8	-3.1	-8.4
2007 August	140.3	-0.1	6.2	122.3	-0.3	4.8
September	140.5	0.1	7.8	121.8	-0.4	6.1
October	141.8	1.0	6.3	122.2	0.3	3.9
November	141.1	-0.5	6.0	121.4	-0.7	2.9
December	141.1	0.0	5.8	122.2	0.7	3.1
2008 January	146.0	3.5	5.3	126.8	3.8	2.3
February	141.1	-3.4	3.1	120.7	-4.8	-0.1
March	141.5	0.3	1.8	119.9	-0.7	-1.9
April	139.7	-1.3	0.0	118.8	-0.9	-3.2
May	139.9	0.1	-1.4	118.0	-0.7	-4.7
June	138.5	-1.0	-1.5	117.1	-0.8	-4.8
July	138.5	0.0	-1.3	117.6	0.5	-4.2
August	135.1	-2.4	-3.7	114.6	-2.5	-6.3
September	135.0	-0.1	-3.9	114.2	-0.4	-6.3
October	133.7	-1.0	-5.7	112.8	-1.2	-7.7
November	131.0	-2.0	-7.2	111.2	-1.5	-8.4
December	129.8	-0.9	-8.0	111.5	0.3	-8.8
2009 January ²	116.9	-10.0	-19.9	101.0	-9.4	-20.4

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to January 2009² Provisional value and volume of sales indices based on early returns from sample retailers

Table 2 Seasonally Adjusted Indices of Total Retail Sales (Excluding Motor Trades)¹**Base Year: 2000 = 100**

Total Retail Sales for all Businesses Combined (Excl Motor Trades)							
Period	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales			
	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change	
2004 Year	123.7	3.8	3.8	111.1	3.1	3.1	
2005 Year	130.5	5.5	5.5	116.8	5.1	5.1	
2006 Year	141.1	8.1	8.1	124.6	6.7	6.7	
2007 Year	151.6	7.4	7.4	131.5	5.5	5.5	
2008 Year	150.7	-0.6	-0.6	126.8	-3.6	-3.6	
2007 1st quarter	146.2	1.3	7.8	128.3	1.1	6.4	
2nd quarter	149.6	2.3	7.7	130.4	1.6	6.3	
3rd quarter	152.1	1.7	7.5	131.7	1.0	5.6	
4th quarter	154.0	1.2	6.7	132.0	0.2	4.0	
2008 1st quarter	154.6	0.4	5.7	131.0	-0.8	2.1	
2nd quarter	151.5	-2.0	1.3	127.4	-2.7	-2.3	
3rd quarter	148.7	-1.8	-2.2	124.7	-2.1	-5.3	
4th quarter	145.6	-2.1	-5.4	121.9	-2.2	-7.6	
2007 August	151.4	-0.7	6.3	131.2	-0.8	4.5	
September	152.3	0.6	7.5	131.6	0.3	5.7	
October	153.3	0.7	6.8	131.9	0.2	4.4	
November	154.3	0.6	7.1	132.1	0.1	4.1	
December	154.4	0.1	6.5	132.1	0.0	3.8	
2008 January	154.1	-0.2	6.0	131.4	-0.5	2.8	
February	155.0	0.5	5.9	131.2	-0.1	2.3	
March	154.6	-0.3	5.3	130.4	-0.6	1.4	
April	150.3	-2.7	0.8	126.6	-2.9	-2.8	
May	153.2	1.9	1.0	128.8	1.7	-2.6	
June	151.1	-1.3	1.9	126.8	-1.6	-1.7	
July	149.6	-1.1	-2.0	125.4	-1.1	-5.3	
August	148.1	-0.9	-2.2	124.3	-0.8	-5.2	
September	148.4	0.2	-2.5	124.5	0.1	-5.4	
October	147.3	-0.8	-4.0	123.6	-0.7	-6.3	
November	145.5	-1.2	-5.7	121.6	-1.6	-8.0	
December	144.4	-0.7	-6.5	120.9	-0.6	-8.5	
2009 January ²	144.3	0.0	-6.3	120.8	-0.1	-8.1	

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to January 2009² Provisional value and volume of sales indices based on early returns from sample retailers

**Table 3 Seasonally Adjusted¹ Value and Volume Indices of Retail Sales for 13 Retail Businesses
(Preliminary Estimates) Base Year: 2000 = 100**

Retail Business - NACE REV 1	January 2009					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change
Motor Trades - NACE 50	74.1	-25.1	-43.6	65.8	-24.8	-42.2
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	173.0	0.4	0.4	136.6	0.3	-2.6
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	135.6	1.2	-4.6	144.2	0.4	-3.2
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	128.9	2.4	-5.5			
Furniture, Soft Furnishing, etc.	80.3	-5.7	-11.0			
Other Goods and Services	158.7	0.4	-3.0			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	122.6	-4.8	-8.2	96.6	-4.5	-11.6
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	173.9	-1.1	-2.6	145.9	-0.6	-3.8
Textiles and Clothing	137.7	0.5	-8.9	180.5	0.0	-3.9
Footwear and Leather	121.1	0.9	-13.6	175.6	1.2	-5.0
Furniture and Lighting	82.9	-10.2	-34.6	77.2	-10.6	-34.2
Electrical Goods	106.0	-4.2	-24.9	99.5	-4.2	-24.4
Hardware, Paints and Glass	157.8	0.0	-20.1	124.0	0.0	-21.7
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	106.7	-4.0	-17.8	84.3	-3.1	-19.7
Other Retail Sales	129.4	-0.7	-12.0	109.8	-0.3	-10.7
Bars - NACE 55.4	108.5	-1.0	-3.7	79.4	-1.3	-8.2
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	144.3	0.0	-6.3	120.8	-0.1	-8.1
All Businesses	116.9	-10.0	-19.9	101.0	-9.4	-20.4
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	135.4	0.3	-9.6	180.0	0.1	-4.1
Household Equipment	124.2	-2.2	-23.8	106.8	-2.4	-24.3
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	125.2	-1.4	-13.0	104.8	-0.9	-12.4
Food Businesses	167.8	-0.2	-0.4	132.5	-0.2	-3.4
All Non-Food	133.7	-1.3	-13.4	124.2	-1.2	-12.7
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	150.2	0.1	-6.6	128.5	0.0	-7.8

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to January 2009, individual series are independently adjusted

Table 4 Seasonally Adjusted¹ Value and Volume Indices of Retail Sales for 13 Retail Businesses
Base Year: 2000 = 100

Retail Business - NACE REV 1	December 2008					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous month	Annual % change
Motor Trades - NACE 50	98.9	-1.6	-16.8	87.6	-1.0	-15.3
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	172.3	0.5	-0.2	136.2	0.5	-3.6
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	133.9	-0.4	-11.2	143.6	0.0	-9.9
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	125.9	-2.3	-10.3			
Furniture, Soft Furnishings, etc.	85.1	-0.4	-8.0			
Other Goods and Services	158.1	2.1	-12.2			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	128.8	3.1	0.4	101.1	2.8	-3.5
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	175.9	-2.0	-1.5	146.8	-1.8	-3.7
Textiles and Clothing	137.1	0.0	-10.6	180.5	0.5	-5.7
Footwear and Leather	120.0	-0.1	-9.7	173.6	3.4	-3.3
Furniture and Lighting	92.4	0.4	-23.1	86.4	0.2	-22.6
Electrical Goods	110.7	-1.4	-23.9	103.9	-1.5	-23.4
Hardware, Paints and Glass	157.9	-5.3	-17.6	124.1	-5.3	-19.3
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	111.2	0.9	-10.9	87.0	-0.1	-14.3
Other Retail Sales	130.3	1.1	-9.7	110.1	1.6	-9.2
Bars - NACE 55.4	109.5	1.0	-5.6	80.4	0.6	-10.0
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	144.4	-0.7	-6.5	120.9	-0.6	-8.5
All Businesses	129.8	-0.9	-8.0	111.5	0.3	-8.8
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	135.0	0.1	-10.4	179.8	0.6	-5.4
Household Equipment	127.1	-5.0	-20.8	109.4	-5.2	-21.4
Books, Newspapers Stationery & Other Goods	127.0	1.3	-9.9	105.7	1.6	-10.2
Food Businesses	168.1	0.7	-0.2	132.8	0.6	-3.6
All Non-Food	135.4	-1.1	-11.9	125.7	-1.2	-11.6
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	150.0	-0.9	-6.5	128.4	-0.8	-8.1

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to January 2009, individual series are independently adjusted

Table 5 Seasonally Adjusted¹ Value and Volume Indices of Retail Sales for 13 Retail Businesses
Base Year: 2000 = 100

Retail Business - NACE REV 1	October - December 2008					
	Value of Sales			Volume of Sales		
	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change	Index	% change on previous period	Annual % change
Motor Trades - NACE 50	101.0	-8.5	-13.7	88.8	-7.4	-13.0
Non-Specialised Stores (excluding Department Stores) - NACE 52.11	172.0	0.2	0.3	136.3	-0.5	-3.5
Department Stores - NACE 52.12	133.8	-0.7	-7.9	143.1	0.4	-6.4
of which:-						
Clothing and Footwear	127.5	-1.8	-7.7			
Furniture, Soft Furnishings, etc.	84.1	-2.4	-12.0			
Other Goods and Services	155.7	0.0	-7.2			
<u>Specialised Stores - NACE 52 (remainder)</u>						
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	126.3	-1.1	-0.8	99.5	-1.9	-4.6
Pharmaceutical, Medical & Cosmetic Articles	176.9	0.4	0.9	147.8	-0.1	-1.1
Textiles and Clothing	138.5	-4.5	-10.9	181.5	-2.8	-5.5
Footwear and Leather	121.8	-5.1	-9.3	172.6	-3.1	-3.3
Furniture and Lighting	94.0	-8.6	-24.2	87.9	-8.3	-23.6
Electrical Goods	111.4	-5.0	-19.7	104.6	-4.7	-19.1
Hardware, Paints and Glass	162.8	-6.3	-15.2	128.0	-6.8	-16.9
Books, Newspapers and Stationery	110.2	-8.1	-13.5	86.9	-8.6	-15.9
Other Retail Sales	132.2	-3.2	-9.4	111.1	-1.4	-9.8
Bars - NACE 55.4	108.9	-1.2	-6.5	80.5	-2.7	-10.6
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades	145.6	-2.1	-5.4	121.9	-2.2	-7.6
All Businesses	131.4	-3.5	-7.0	111.8	-3.1	-8.4
Of which:-						
<u>Combined Groups</u>						
Clothing & Footwear in specialised stores	136.4	-4.7	-10.8	180.6	-2.7	-5.3
Household Equipment	131.1	-7.0	-18.0	113.0	-7.0	-18.5
Books, Newspapers, Stationery & Other Goods	128.2	-4.2	-10.0	106.5	-2.9	-10.8
Food Businesses	167.6	0.1	0.2	132.7	-0.7	-3.6
All Non-Food	137.2	-4.1	-10.6	127.4	-3.4	-10.3
All Businesses excl. Motor Trades & Bars	151.6	-2.4	-5.3	129.8	-2.3	-7.2

¹ Based on Seasonal Patterns up to January 2009, individual series are independently adjusted

Table 6**Volume of retail trade in the euro-zone, the EU27 and Member States¹
Annual % change compared with the same month of the previous year**

	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08 ²
Austria	0.3	-2.4	-1.3	-1.4	-1.2	-0.4
Belgium	-0.5	-0.1	3.4	0.1	-3.3	2.7
Finland	1.5	-0.9	-0.7	0.7	-2.0	-3.2
France	0.3	1.4	2.3	-1.2	-0.5	-0.2
Germany	-1.8	-0.8	0.2	-0.4	0.1	0.4
Greece	-2.1	-4.2	-1.6	0.5	-4.6	-7.1
Ireland	-5.1	-4.9	-5.2	-5.5	-7.7	-8.1
Italy	-2.1	-5.1	-3.1	-4.4	-5.6	-4.9
Luxembourg	2.3	-3.7	8.5	7.1	-6.7	-5.9
Netherlands	-1.2	0.6	-0.6	-0.2	-1.0	-0.6
Portugal	2.7	2.1	0.6	1.4	1.4	-4.4
Slovenia	6.1	10.9	13.9	7.3	7.0	7.2
Spain	-6.0	c	c	c	c	c
Cyprus	9.6	c	c	c	c	c
Malta	-15.2	-16.5	-17.9	:	:	:
EA15	-1.5	-1.5	-0.8	-2.1	-2.7	-2.4
Denmark	-5.3	-5.7	-5.0	-5.8	-4.9	-7.8
Sweden	1.5	0.7	-2.4	-2.0	-1.6	-2.8
United Kingdom	2.1	1.6	0.8	1.2	0.9	1.1
Czech Republic	-0.6	2.8	6.0	2.4	2.7	1.0
Estonia	-4.2	-3.1	-6.6	-10.7	-10.7	-16.3
Latvia	-8.5	-8.4	-8.1	-13.4	-12.8	-12.5
Lithuania	5.4	1.5	-0.8	0.1	-0.5	-5.0
Hungary	-1.7	-1.3	-1.2	-1.3	-1.8	-3.1
Poland	8.1	2.5	4.0	2.5	-0.6	-0.5
Slovakia	6.8	8.6	10.9	7.3	4.4	5.3
Bulgaria	5.1	1.5	1.0	0.9	-1.1	-3.3
Romania	18.5	22.7	20.1	14.6	10.0	-4.2
EU27	-0.2	-0.4	-0.1	-1.2	-1.7	-1.8

: Data not available,

¹ Data NACE 52 : All Business excluding Motor Trades & Bars² Data for Ireland is December 2008 final data

Source: Eurostat

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Background Notes

Retail Sales Index	<p>Introduction of updated series with base year 2000 = 100.</p> <p>An updated Retail Sales Index (RSI) was introduced in the November 2003 release. The underlying methodology remains unchanged. The index is primarily intended to measure short-term trends. For long term analysis allowance must be made for the fact that the series does not reflect changes in retail structures between updates.</p>
Reference Period	<p>The December 2008 period covers the 5 weeks from 23/11/08 to 27/12/08 and the January 2009 period covers the 4 weeks from 28/12/08 to 24/01/09.</p>
New Base Year	<p>The set of new monthly retail sales indices has been compiled with reference to base year 2000 = 100. The underlying structural weighting system is mainly based on the 2000 Annual Services Inquiry. Weights are updated from year to year using ratios of average weekly turnover by size class within business type.</p>
Scope and Coverage	<p>The Retail Sales Index covers, on a sample basis, the retail sales of retail businesses, wholesale businesses with sizeable retailing activity and the separate sales establishments of non-distribution enterprises. Excluded from the index coverage are the direct retail sales from non-distribution establishments together with the incidental retail sales of wholesale businesses. Also excluded are sales by hawkers, street stalls and other retailing activities not conducted from permanent business premises. The statistical unit used for reporting sales figures in this inquiry is the enterprise (i.e. complete business covering all branches).</p>
Methodology	<p>The business categories are based mainly on the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community (NACE Rev. 1). The index system is structured on the retailing enterprises covered in the 2000 Annual Services Inquiry classified by 13 retail business categories and four turnover (excluding VAT) ranges¹.</p> <p>The value indices are calculated by updating the aggregate 2000 retail turnover (including VAT) of these enterprises in these fifty one cells using the monthly retail sales data provided by the enterprise respondent panel from 2000 onwards.</p> <p>The compilation of the index for a current month is based on the percentage change in average weekly sales in these cells over the corresponding monthly period of the previous year. The monthly volume indices are calculated by deflating the seasonally unadjusted value indices by specially constructed retail price indices derived from the Consumer Price Index (CPI). A copy of the Retail Sales Index methodology is available on our website (www.cso.ie).</p>
Seasonal Adjustment	<p>The seasonally adjusted series are updated twice yearly using patterns up to and including the preceding month. The present seasonally adjusted monthly value and volume series are based on seasonal patterns from January 1999 to January 2009. The duration is just sufficient for seasonal adjustment; the process will improve as the series is extended. The adjustments are completed by applying the X-11 Variant of the US Bureau of the Census Method 11 Seasonal Adjustment program based on individually selected multiplicative models. The unadjusted series, from which trading day variations have been eliminated, are available on our website (www.cso.ie).</p>
References	<p>A detailed description of the Retail Sales Index is available on the cso website www.cso.ie. Retrospective details covering three years are provided for all series on both a seasonally adjusted and an unadjusted basis in each issue of the Statistical Bulletin.</p>

¹ The Department Stores business category is not classified by annual turnover but is sub-divided into three retail activity categories.